

How to: NatureKit basics

(Victoria's Biodiversity Map)

NatureKit weblink: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit> (or write into your search engine: NatureKit Victoria)

What you'll find on the NatureKit website:

- Link to NatureKit map ('Launch NatureKit')
- Frequently Asked Questions

Tips to use the map

Open/close Tool bar – double left click on a aqua bar that says 'NatureKit'. To close tool bar, double click again

Open/close Layers – click the light grey arrow next to the green box that says, 'I want to...'. To close, click the arrow again

Change overlay map of Victoria – In Layers turn off 'NaturePrint' by clicking the tick. Click on the square box at the bottom of the map next to the map scale information and select your overlay map.

Locate the different map Tools – In the Tool bar you'll find the options Common Tools, Species Tools, Search Locations, Print & Draw, Help & About. Individual tools sit under each of these Tool headings.

Zoom In and Out – Use the scroll on your mouse OR click on light grey '+' or '-' near the green box that says, 'I want to...'

Move the map – left click and hold the mouse on the map as you move the cursor around OR go to Common Tools – Pan – left click and hold mouse on the map as above

Interrogate the information – left click on the information you want to find out more information about. Sometimes this needs to be a slow left click, not sure why, or open the legend by selecting the line symbols next to the word 'Layers' (under Toolbar)

Change the transparency of a layer – move the slider-bar next to the relevant layer

How to:

Search for a plant or animal: Toolbar – Species Tools – Filter Species by Name – select Plant or Animal – Next – Type *name* – click Search – zoom in

Find what plants and animals are in an area: Species Tools – Extract Species List – Next – Select extent – draw - polygon or square – click on the map to create the shape around the area you want to search, double click to finish the shape – Add – Download CSV Files – Four Excel documents and one PDF will be available for viewing – click Finish to close the search **OR** click the light grey 'X'

View Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's): Under Vegetation in the Layers, expand and click on the box next to Ecological Vegetation Classes.

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Continued... **How to:**

Search for species models (HDM's (shows where species are predicted to be when there are no records)): Toolbar – Species Tools – Load HDM's – type in your species – tick the species – OK (this feature is currently being updated so many HDM's are not currently available)

Create a shapefile (point, line, polygon): Toolbar – Print & Draw – go to arrow next to 'Point' and select your drawing shape – draw shape on the map – Toolbar – Export Drawings – Ok – 'Open with...' DO NOT rename any of the five files (.cpg, .dbf, .prj, .shp, .shx) as they all make up one shapefile and need to have exactly the same names for a mapping program to read it. If you want to rename the shapefile you will need to rename the 'Export' section of the 'Export.zip' file. When renaming, ensure there are no spaces or characters except for underscore.

Help:

Contact the NatureKit team for complicated questions OR suggestions on how to improve the map.
Toolbar – Help & About – Contact us

Contact your regional DELWP Office (Natural Environment Program group) if you require help using the map or interpreting the information.